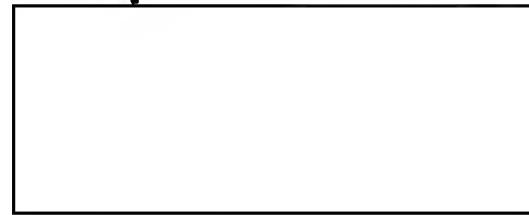


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YEMEN (SANA): Prime Minister al-Ayni has resigned and is expected to be replaced, at least temporarily, by Deputy Prime Minister Hassan Makki. Al-Ayni was unpopular with many Yemenis and had been under increasing pressure to step down. Neighboring Saudi Arabia has also distrusted the former prime minister, and Jidda's relations with Sana should now become more harmonious. Makki, whose appointment must still be confirmed by principal government leaders, faces the difficult task of dealing with the country's disparate political and tribal factions as well as with Yemen (Aden) over the thorny unification issue.

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